

## Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06

SCEM-02 PM-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08 EB-11

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /185 W

----- 055153

R 212107Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8896

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

IAEA VIENNA 188

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8716

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY FOR MEXICO POWER REACTOR

REF: VIENNA 09240

MEXICO 8713

1. RE OFFERS BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO SUPPLY ENRICHED FUEL,  
DR. ALBA ANDRADE, THE INEN DG, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS IN COURSE  
NOV. 19 CONVERSATION:

A) THE UK WILL NOT OFFER TO SUPPLY SAME, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE  
OF DATES INVOLVED.

B) FRANCE IS PUSHING HARD TO GET THE CONTRACTS.

C) THE USSR OFFER IS INTERESTING BUT "WE HAVE SOME DOUBTS AS  
TO SAFEGUARDS AND RELIABILITY."

D) THE US: " WE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE ENRICHMENT SERVICES  
FROM THE US NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY AND EXPERIENCE BUT  
ALSO BECAUSE OF SAFEGUARDS AND RELIABILITY ASSURANCES INHERENT  
IN THAT SOURCE OF SUPPLY."

E) FINALLY, "WE (THE GOM) MUST CONSIDER ALL OFFERS MADE."

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2. RE OFFERS OF URANIUM:

FRANCE HAS MADE AN ATTRACTIVE FIRM OFFER, WHICH EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 1973. IN FACT, GOF IS SENDING A MISSION TO MEXICO CITY DECEMBER 13 "TO SIGN." IN THIS CONNECTION, CFE DECISION DUE BEFORE END NOVEMBER.

3. RE GOM URANIUM DEPOSITS AND PROGRAM OF EXPLORATION:

A) ALBA EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION AT RESULTS OF RECENT PROGRAM OF EXPLORATION, STATING THAT A NEW FIND IN CHIHUAHUA (LA MARGARITA, NEXT TO EL NOPAL) PROMISES TO BE RICHER THAN ANY PREVIOUS FIND, ADDING "AND WE HAVE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE."

B) HE ADVISED FURTHER THAT A NEW BELL HELICOPTER WAS ARRIVING NOVEMBER 19 AT THE BORDER AND THAT A GOM PILOT WAS ALREADY EN ROUTE TO FLY IT IN.

C) ON HIS TRIP LAST WEEK TO SAN FRANCISCO HE ORDERED A NEW AIRBORNE DETECTION EQUIPMENT WHICH IS DUE TO BE DELIVERED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

D) REFERRING TO OTHER KNOWN DEPOSITS IN MEXICO (NUEVO LEON, TAMAULIPAS) AND NEW AREAS PROGRAMMED FOR EXPLORATION (SONORA) AS WELL AS SIMILARITY OF GEOLOGIC STRUCTURES RUNNING FROM CANADA THROUGH US/TEXAS TO MEXICO, HE SAID THAT FUTURE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT AND MEXICO SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HER NEEDS. FRANCE IS FOURTH IN THE WORLD IN KNOWN RESERVES, SOME 30,000 TONS, HE SAID, AND MEXICO SHOULD EASILY REACH THAT FIGURE. E) THE GOM IS GOING FORWARD WITH ITS PLANS TO CONSTRUCT FACILITIES FOR FUEL ELEMENT MANUFACTURE, HE STATED.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF WHAT USG CONTEMPLATES IN FORM OF CONTRACT (STATE 220032, PARA 2) AND IN VIEW COMPLEXITIES AND TIME ELEMENTS INVOLVED, AS WELL AS EFFORTS OTHER COUNTRIES OBTAIN CONTRACTS FOR BOTH URANIUM AND ENRICHED FUEL SUPPLY, SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN SIMULTANEOUS OR AT LEAST IMMEDIATELY CONSECUTIVE PRESENTATION RESPECTIVE DRAFTS IN VIENNA AND MEXICO CITY.

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## Message Attributes

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